Allocation of gas for power projects in Gujarat

*230. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to allocate additional gas for power generation projects in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, by when this allocation will be actually made?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Additional allocation of gas to Gujarat for power generation would be made subject to enhanced availability of gas.

Recovery of dues from M/s Bharti Mobiles Limited

*231. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3385, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th April, 2001, and state:

(a) the progress made so far to recover the outstanding dues from M/s. Bharti Mobile Ltd.; and

(b) by when a final decision is likely to be taken on the disputes raised by the Company with regard to calculation of licence fee liability?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The company was asked on 15.02.2001 to pay the sum of Rs. 477.34 crores (approximately) towards license fee dues up to the date of termination of the Punjab Circle Cellular Service license, Wireless Spectrum Charges, Liquidated Damage Charges and interest as upto 31.01.2001. Further interest is recoverable from the company up to the actual date of payment. No payment has been received so far.

While every effort is being made to recover the dues expeditiously, in view of the legal issues involved, it would be difficult to say at this stage as to when a final decision would be taken in the matter.

Arresting wasteful expenditure of some State Governments

*232. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministers in some State Governments like U.P,